

Response After Final Office Action

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's Final Office Action dated July 23, 2003.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13, 59 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as well as the rejections of Claims 14-31, 35-53, 57-58, and 64-65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), are overcome by the arguments and amendments presented herein. Applicants hereby submit amendments in accordance with agreements reached during a telephone interview with the Examiner, amending Claims 1, 9, 17, 31, 40, 53, 59 and deleting Claims 13 and 35.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application, as presently amended, is now in condition for allowance.